

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /111 W

----- 054503

R 141428Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2109

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, AG

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SUBJ: ALGERIA'S ROLE BEYOND THE OPEC SUMMIT

REF: NAIROBI 1786; ADDIS ABABA 2564; ALGIERS 0637;
MEXICO CITY 2086

1. ALTHOUGH ALGERIANS SCORED SEVERAL VICTORIES AT OPEC SUMMIT, OPEC SUMMIT EVENTS THEMSELVES, CURRENT ALGERIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION AND LDC MUTTERINGS ABOUT OPEC'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE CONCRETE BENEFITS FOR THEM RAISE QUESTION WHETHER ALGERIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THIRD WORLD IS IN TROUBLE.

2. ON ONE HAND, IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD, KUWAITI NATIONALIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND FACT OF SUMMIT ITSELF ENHANCED ALGERIA'S POSITION. ALGERIANS' APPETITE FOR WORLD SPOTLIGHT, THEIR EXPERIENCE AND SKILL AT CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND MANEUVERING, LACK OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE OR GENUINE RIVAL AMONG OTHER LDCS, HYPER-THYROID EFFORT ALGERIANS PUT INTO DOING THEIR HOMEWORK AND PUSHING THEIR VIEWS, BOUMEDIENE'S GROWING PRESENCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE, ALGERIA'S RELATIVE FREEDOM FROM ALLIANCES AND FOREIGN RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS CONTINUED ROLE AS NOMINAL HEAD OF NONALIGNED GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS ROLE.

3. ON OTHER HAND, ABSENCE OF FIVE CHIEFS OF STATE AT SUMMIT, LEVEL OF GENERALITY RETAINED IN SUMMIT'S "SOLEMN DECLARATION," DE FACTO ACCEPTANCE OF FRENCH-PROPOSED APRIL PRODUCERS-CONSUMERS CONFERENCE, MODERATION OF BOUMEDIENE'S KEYNOTE SPEECH, REFERRAL OF MUCH-BALLYHOOED " PLAN OF ACTION" TO VIENNA FOR STUDY AND LACK OF SPECIFICS ON INTRA-OPEC ISSUES SUGGEST ALGERIANS HAD TO THROTTLE BACK THEIR DRIVE TOWARD A CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ALGERIA'S LIMITED OIL RESERVES AND RUDIMENTARY DEVELOPMENT STATE OF ITS NATURAL GAS ASSETS MAKE IT ONLY SECOND RANK OPEC POWER; ITS FINANCIALLY TROUBLED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND INTERNAL POLITICAL MALAISE GIVE IT ONLY LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS: INCREASED PRESSURES ON OPEC AND FAILURE OF OPEC COUNTRIES TO PRODUCE CONCRETE BENEFITS FOR OIL-CONSUMING LDCS HAS CREATED QUESTIONING ATTITUDE AMONG LDCS, PARTICULARLY IN BLACK AFRICA. THESE DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST ALGERIAN ASPIRATIONS TO

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CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF THIRD WORLD ARE IN FOR SERIOUS TESTING.

4. ALGERIANS WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO ROUND UP SUPPORT FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP OF LDC ALLIANCE OF OIL PRODUCERS AND OIL CONSUMERS PRESSING FOR CONFRONTATION OVER CONCESSIONS FROM DEVELOPED WORLD. IF ALGERIA, FOREMOST RADICAL LEADER, IS IN DIFFICULTY, IMAGINATIVE AND WELL-THOUGHT

OUT US APPROACH COULD PAY OFF IN DIVERTING CONFRONTATION
TO GENUINE DIALOGUE.

5. ABOVE IS SUMMARY OF LONGER AIRGRAM WHICH WILL FOLLOW.
WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF ADDRESSEES.PARKER

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